

How do I know if I have a migrant student and what do I do?



Paula Gaddis
Title IC Consultant
Tennessee Department of Education
Paula.gaddis@tn.gov
615-741-3262

**Only one of these children is NOT
a migrant student.**



Migrant students can look and act like any other student in your classroom or building.



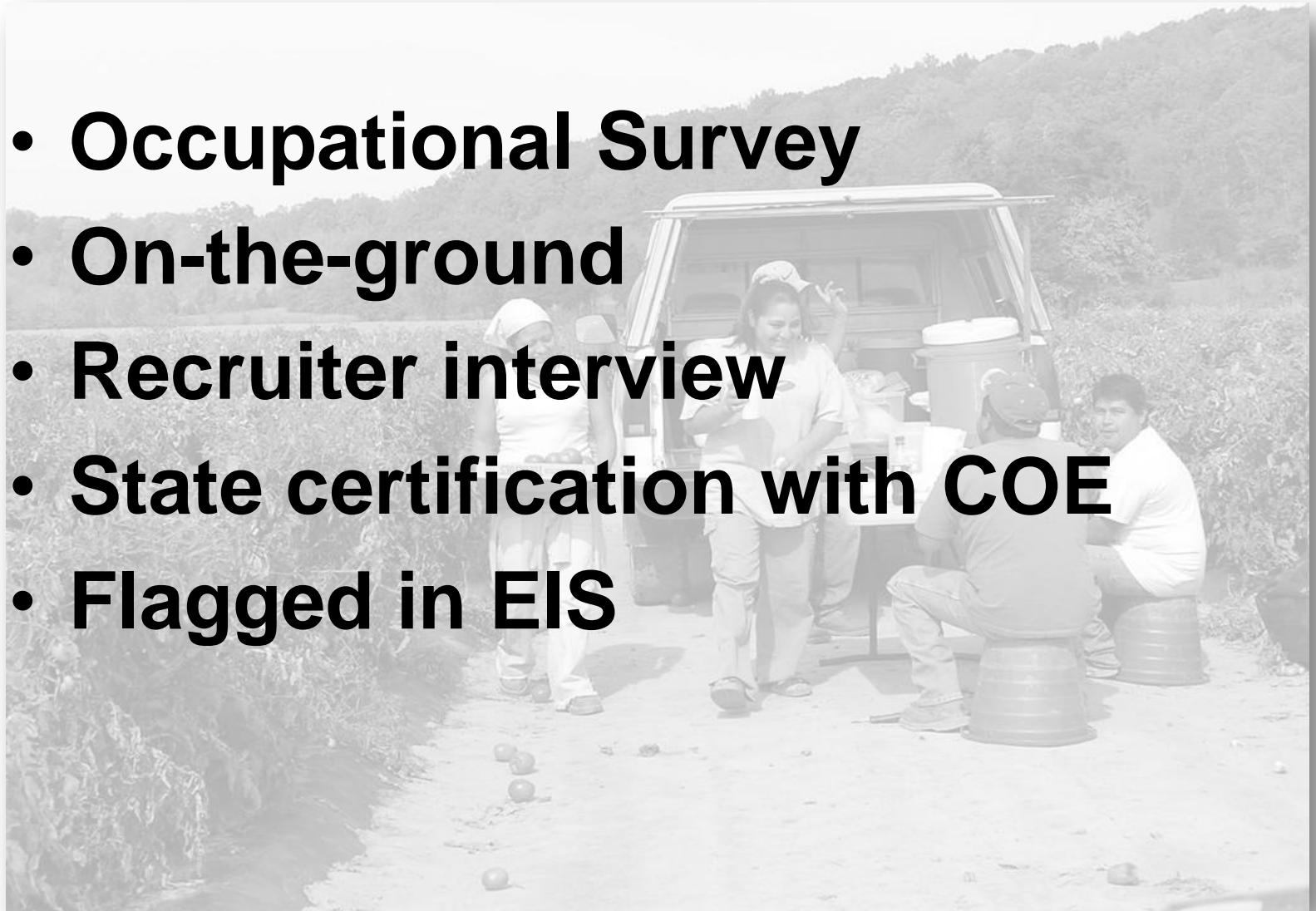
How do I know?

Migrant Student Defined

- ✓ Between 3 and 21 without HS/GED diploma
- ✓ Moved in the preceding 36 months from across school district lines (county or state)
- ✓ To obtain seasonal or temporary employment in agriculture, dairy, or fishing
- ✓ Out of economic necessity

Identification Process

- **Occupational Survey**
- **On-the-ground**
- **Recruiter interview**
- **State certification with COE**
- **Flagged in EIS**

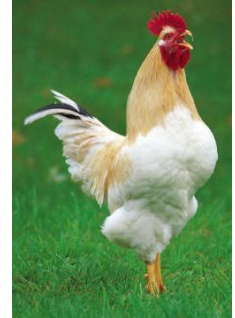


09-10 State Migrant Profile

- 2894 < 3,229 and high of 5700+in 2005
- 1,276 OSY and 557 3-5 not in school
- 1061, 37% in grades K-12
526 ELs
527 moved during the school year
15 disabilities under IDEA

What jobs do migrant workers do in Tennessee?

- Chicken processing plants
- Tomatoes
- Cotton
- Nursery plants
- Tobacco
- Meat processing, dairy, strawberries, beans, peppers, squash, apples, grapes



Come from and go to...

- Alabama
- Michigan
- Georgia
- Kentucky
- North Carolina
- New Jersey
- South Carolina
- Michigan
- Florida
- Pennsylvania
- Tennessee
- Illinois
- California
- Texas
- Mexico
- Guatemala

Available Services

- School lunch
- EXITO
- Career Institute
- TOPS Migrant Scholarship
- Imagination Library
- PASS - Credit recovery
- Reading is Fundamental Books (RIF)
- Telamon – Migrant Head Start Preschool
- In-home tutoring

Professional Development



Available Support with Migrant Funds

- Advocacy – with parent, with school
- Transportation
- Support Service – referrals:
counseling, health, legal
- Translation
- School Supplies
- Clothing



Challenges

- Diversity and the complexity of their needs;
- Shortage of trained teachers;
- Lack of cohesive, comprehensive planning.



Challenges

- ⇒ Arrive late and leave early
- ⇒ Discontinuity in education
- ⇒ Don't know what the school is going to teach
- ⇒ Behind in content knowledge
- ⇒ Poor or no educational records
- ⇒ Credit accrual
- ⇒ MSIX – partial solution

Challenges

- ⇒ Don't know the unwritten codes
- ⇒ Don't know the people
- ⇒ Hard to make friends
- ⇒ Need to adjust abruptly
- ⇒ Not all migrant students will be ELs
- ⇒ Language barrier

Challenges

- ⇒ Migrant parents often left out of the education equation
- ⇒ Cultural factors
- ⇒ Strenuous work outside of school
- ⇒ Poverty
- ⇒ Inadequate health care
- ⇒ Social isolation

Strategies

Q: So what works with migrant students?

A: The same things that work with other students.

Cooperative Learning

- ✓ Has a positive effect on literacy and language learning
- ✓ Contextualizes language
- ✓ Increases verbal interaction
- ✓ Promotes active involvement in learning
- ✓ Peers can be more supportive than in traditional classroom
- ✓ Reduces anxiety



Activate Prior Knowledge

- Brain-based research – We only learn when we can attach the information to prior knowledge. The further the subject matter extends away from the knowledge of the learner, the more distant the learner becomes in the classroom.
- A student who has worked in the fields will have knowledge of nature and agriculture, which can be a starting point for learning in science.
- Migrant students may have lived, traveled, and studied in several states.

Additional Strategies

- ✓ Contact the MEP for access to MSIX and/or contact the sending school.
- ✓ Have a migrant student policy.
- ✓ Establish a system to follow up with frequently absent students.
- ✓ Assist with understanding of graduation requirements.

Additional Strategies

- ✓ Write for real life reasons.
- ✓ Provide take-home textbooks and resources for students.
- ✓ Enhance self-concept and self-esteem.

Additional Strategies

- ✓ Integrate culturally relevant content.
- ✓ Encourage positive ethnic affiliation.
- ✓ Assign a “partial” or withdrawal grade when a student transfers based on work during time enrolled, regardless of time enrolled.

Classroom

- Place where children feel comfortable and welcome
 - 😊 Stop instruction to recognize, introduce, and welcome new students.
 - 😊 Assign a classroom buddy.
 - 😊 Include new students in classroom jobs.

Classroom

- Clearly explain everyday routines and policies – may be common place to us
 - 😊 hall passes
 - 😊 school bells
 - 😊 changing classes
 - 😊 gym
 - 😊 cafeteria and lunch lines
 - 😊 lockers
 - 😊 disciplinary methods

Classroom

- Be attentive to warning signs of adjustment problem (withdrawn, aggressive, etc.)
- Don't take away possessions as a disciplinary measure.
- Personalize contact – connect with student
- Good-bye book

Flexability

- Flexible school calendar – allow students to complete assignments and exams prior to migration.
- Send final exams to receiving school to administer.
- Schedule students into extra period for tutorial or a computer lab, during lunch or before/after school.
- Require completion of only 75 % of the current assignments during the first two weeks.
- Break assignments into smaller segments.

Flexability

- Encourage alternative programs for earning course credits
 - ☺ PASS (portable assisted study sequence),
 - ☺ Distance learning (skype a class, record course session(s) for students, allow online learning while away from the district),
 - ☺ Adult, Evening or Alternative High Schools that allow students to progress at their own pace, enabling students to earn credits at a faster rate,
 - ☺ HEP – High School Equivalency Program (16 yrs old and not in school, on campus or commute)

Teacher Characteristics

- Confidence in student ability
(high expectations)
- Model respect
- Positive attitude
- Effective communication skills
- Ability to think critically, analytically,
and creatively

Teacher Characteristics

Awareness

- Aware of and sensitive to and appreciative of individual differences
- Aware that most teachers belong to the mainstream middle class – the realities for the teacher are not the same as the realities for the migrant students
- Aware of various factors that affect migrant student lives
- Self-aware of attitudes

Teacher Characteristics

- Consider that migrant parents have different needs, interests, schedules and situations
- Create relationships with students and parents that are characterized by tolerance, acceptance, and mutual respect

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Questions?

Paula Gaddis

TN Department of Education

615-741-3262

paula.gaddis@tn.gov

Jessica Castañeda

Tennessee Opportunity Programs
(TOPS)

931-668-4139

migrated@blomand.net